

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

Please cancel claims 2-5, 7, 8, and 11, without prejudice.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a liposome preparation comprising tacrolimus or its hydrate by vacuum drying~~wherein, comprising:~~

- (i) preparing a liposome condensed solution,~~which is obtained~~ by removing solvent from a liposome solution, is subjected to which comprises tacrolimus or its hydrate, a liposome-forming lipid, at least one stabilizer and solvent,
- (ii) subjecting the liposome condensed solution to vacuum drying, wherein under vacuum conditions the temperature of the condensed solution is lowered to the range from -30°C to -40°C, and then the temperature of the condensed solution is raised to 30°C to 50°C to bubble the condensed solution, in which vacuum drying is carried out without freezing while bubbling the condensed solution or after bubbling the condensed solution.

Claims 2-5 (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the vacuum drying is carried out under 1.33 Pa while bubbling the condensed solution~~is bubbled while keeping its liquid phase.~~

Claims 7-8 (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein lecithin is mainly used as the liposome-forming lipid.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the liposome contains no cholesterol.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The liposome preparation obtained by the method as defined in claim 1.

In re Appln. of OHTOMO et al.  
Application No. 10/089,084

Please add the following claims.

13. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the temperature of the condensed solution is raised to 40°C from -40°C.

14. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the vacuum drying is carried out under 13.3 Pa after bubbling the condensed solution.

15. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the stabilizer is one or more selected from lactose, maltose and  $\alpha$ -tocopherol.